



SPECIAL Off-cycle Bridge Project REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS:

PEDIATRIC BRAIN TUMORS with a preference for PEDIATRIC GLIOMA

Bridge Project Teams & Eligibility: Teams must be composed of at least one Principal Investigator from the Koch Institute at MIT (or MIT faculty member) and at least one Principal Investigator from DF/HCC. All Principal Investigators must meaningfully participate in the project. Preference will be given to teams that have a strong clinical connection and are employing unique and highly innovative approaches, including the development of new technologies. There must be a strong justification as to why the pairing of the two institutions makes sense, and it has to be a real team – not simply one on paper. All applicants must be faculty members of their host institution; DF/HCC Principal Investigators must be cancer center members.

Award Amounts: \$400,000 (total costs) per team per year for up to 2 years (\$800,000 total). Funding for the project should be allocated in equal amounts to Koch Institute/MIT and to the DF/HCC institution(s).

Submission information:

Proposal Submission Date: **September 2, 2016**

Submission Process:

- Full applications should be submitted electronically to:
ki-bridge@mit.edu
- **Email Notification is required by August 8, 2016** if you plan to submit a proposal (see below).

Finalists present to Bridge Project Review Team: September 21, 2016. The team **must** be able to present (as a group) on this date if selected for Round II of review.

Project Start Date: October 1, 2016

Overview and Goal of the Bridge Project

The Koch Institute (KI)-Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center (DF/HCC) Bridge Project is designed to help bring the expertise of these two Centers to bear on complex translational problems in cancer research. Particular emphasis is placed on fostering joint approaches by engineers and cancer scientists. This is a special call for applications for collaborative research projects that focus on critical problems in pediatric brain tumors with a preference for glioma. There is a strong preference for translational research with a clear vector to the clinic. Additional information on the Bridge Project can be found at: <http://ki.mit.edu/approach/bridge>.

Email Notification

Please notify us by email (ki-bridge@mit.edu) by **August 8** if you plan to submit a Bridge Project proposal; provide a title, the names of the PIs and their affiliation (must be MIT faculty or a member of the DF/HCC), and a brief description of the project. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** We ask for the notification to help us anticipate the number of proposals and the number of reviewers we will need. You will **not** receive an invitation to submit a full proposal - **ALL** can submit a proposal.

Proposal Submission Information (due September 2, 2016)

The research proposal may not exceed five pages including figures and tables. The cover page, biosketches, budgets, and one page of literature citations do not count towards the page limit.

Format

- The full proposal should be submitted as a **single PDF document**.
- 12-point Cambria or 11-point Arial font and margins of 0.5 inches or greater
- Required components (please follow this order)
 - Cover Page: Include the title of the project, PI names, project abstract and a **lay summary**. Cover page should also include the **email addresses of all team members**
 - Research Plan: Include Background and Significance, Specific Aims, and the Research Plan (not to exceed 5 pages, inclusive figures and tables)
 - NIH Biosketches for each PI, include Part A (Personal Statement)
 - Literature Citations
 - Budgets will be requested later

The research proposal should clearly articulate the following:

- What approaches do you intend to use, and why are they novel?
- What are the anticipated experimental challenges?
- What are the short-and longer-term goals of the research?
- What can be reasonably accomplished within the funding period?
- Why is the MIT-Harvard pairing critical, and how will this be a true team?
- What clinically translatable applications might emerge from this work now or in the near future? (Clearly demonstrate a clinical connection.)

Resources and Budget

Budgets for Bridge Project proposals should be allocated in equal amounts to the Koch Institute/MIT and DF/HCC.

You will be notified if your team is selected for Round II review by September 7. If your team is **selected for Round II review** (with a team presentation on September 21) a **detailed budget and justification** will be **required**. Please contact the following Bridge Project grant administrators for additional information about applicable F&A rates and for help with detailed budget preparation:

- **DF/HCC administration for DF/HCC institutions: Deborah Goff**, Deputy Associate Director, Program and Operations Support, DF/HCC, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, deborah_goff@dfci.harvard.edu
- **Koch Institute/MIT administration for KI/MIT: Mary Ellen Acone**, the Koch Institute's Senior Financial Officer, meacone@mit.edu

We request that all applicants selected for Round II review email their detailed budgets to Deborah/Mary Ellen for their final review by September 13.

For Round II review, detailed budget requests and justifications must be submitted using template that will be provided by/for each institution. Funds may be used for research expenses, which may include salary and benefits for PIs and other research staff, supplies, and equipment. MIT and DF/HCC will apply F&A rates according to their established policies.

Progress Reports

Grantees must submit two Progress Reports per year: one after 6 months of funding and one at the end of the first year of funding. Progress will be measured against stated milestones and timelines. Second year funding will be contingent upon satisfactory review of the Progress Reports. An 18-month Report and a Final Progress Report are also expected. Teams should email ki-bridge@mit.edu when submitting a manuscript, when manuscripts are accepted, and when filing an invention disclosure.

Other Requirements

- The team **must** be able to present (as a group) on September 21 if selected for Round II of review. Do not apply if all PIs are not able to be present on this day.
- Members of the winning teams will/may be asked to attend/present at several other Bridge Project-related occasions (donor events) as well as participate in the next review cycle (2017).
- Bridge Project Funding **MUST** be acknowledged in publications, presentations, press releases, and invention disclosures.

Contact Information

Please direct questions to: ki-bridge@mit.edu

or

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